


IRTHLINGBOROUGH
URBAN COUNCIL.

Annual Report
1921.

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.O.H.

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OUNDLÉ,

APRIL 20TH, 1922.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

IRTHLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,—

I am instructed by the Ministry of Health that Annual Reports need only relate to matters which came specially before your Council during the past year ; and they propose to have what will be called " Survey Reports " made every five years giving full information of whatever progress had been made in that period, the previous year (1920) counting as a Survey Report. Although the Report for last year may be brief it will, I think, be of a satisfactory character.

Birth
Statistics.

The number of births registered in your District for 1921 was 90. Of these 46 were males and 44 females, giving a rate of 18·3 per thousand of the population, the rate for England and Wales being 22·4. Six of the births in the District were classed as illegitimate.

Deaths.

The deaths in the same period numbered 47, giving a rate of 9·5. The rate for England and Wales being 12·2.

The principal causes of deaths were :—Infectious diseases, nil ; Encephalitis Lethargica, 1 ; Tubercular diseases, 10 ; Cancer, 6 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 7 ; Heart Disease, 5 ; Pneumonia, nil.

Infantile
Deaths.

Six deaths occurred among infants under 1 year, giving a rate of 66·6 per thousand births ; but as five of these are classed under the heading of congenital debility and premature birth, this only leaves one among 90 births really to account for. The rate for England and Wales being 83.

The following table required by the Ministry gives further information and shows clearly the vital statistics of the district.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,722 acres
Population, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,911
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,090
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,156
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£24,789
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£65

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births	Legitimate	Total. 84	M. 44	F. 40	} Birth Rate.
	Illegitimate	6	2	4	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	47
Number of women dying in consequence of child birth					Nil
Deaths from Measles					Nil
Deaths from whooping cough					Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					Nil

Death Rate.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Diseases.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil	—	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	5	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1	Nil	1
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary ...						
	M.	4				
	F.	4				
	Total	8				
				11	6	10
(b) Non-Pulmonary						
	M.	1				
	F.	2				

Vision

	Cases Notified.	Treated at home	Un- impaired	Vision impaired	Deaths.
Opthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	2	1	Nil

Tuberculosis is, I regret, again the most serious form of **Tuberculosis**. illness in the district, but there is the cheering feature in the decline of notifications. I confidently believe that the number both of notifications and deaths will show a gradual improvement in the near future. A great effort was made in the winter of 1920-1921 to give information by speeches and cinemas, and I understand that it is proposed to repeat the propaganda. A committee is now in being to deal with cases requiring relief. At the present time 12 persons are being helped in this way.

From the table it will be seen that the number of infectious cases notified was unusually small, none in the last six months. The disappearance of Diphtheria is specially gratifying, showing the excellent sanitary condition of the

town. The single case of Enteric Fever occurred at the Wellingborough Sewage Farm, and of course had really no connection with Irthlingborough.

I am glad to say that the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital Committee has consented to take in suitable cases of infectious illness sent by your Council, provided of course that they have accommodation at the time you want it. The arrangement is in accordance with the advice I gave your Council on several occasions, and I am glad to have that matter settled in a satisfactory manner.

In August of last year I received a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health, drawing attention to an outbreak of Small Pox at Nottingham and asking what provision we possessed for dealing with any possible case which might arise. As we have no provision for isolating any such case I at once communicated with the Vice-Chairman of your Council (the Chairman being away from home), and the question was considered in Committee. It was thought that the building formerly used as a pumping station could be used for isolation and the matter was left at that. I do not consider this a very adequate solution of the question, as it would take some considerable time to put it in order, I should say two weeks or more to make the necessary alterations absolutely necessary. Fortunately for this County the disease travelled north instead of south, attacking Yorkshire and Lancashire where it exists at the present time. The danger is by no means over.

I advised your Council that in my opinion it was really a matter which should be taken up by the County, as owing to the ease with which a patient could now be moved a considerable distance by motor ambulance, one small Hospital—call it a hut if you like—could serve a number of small districts, the large towns have already made provision. The saving of expense would be considerable if spread over the County, nobody would be much the worse, and it is not possible for each little district to make separate provision for a disease which they may never encounter. As an example of what I mean let us take the northern end of the County. I contend that one hospital of eight beds would do for Irthlingborough, Raunds, Thrapston, Oundle Urban and Rural, Gretton and Easton. It is true the districts mentioned could combine of their own free will but my experience leads me to say they never would. It would have to be taken in hand by a central body. I feel sure the idea is worth very careful consideration.

The sanitary inspection of the district has been efficiently carried out by Mr. Bayes and I append his report.

Housing.

The Housing question has been constantly before your Council, building operations are in active progress, but I do not see much sign of the demand for houses being satisfied.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during the year :—					
Built and occupied	...	...	...	...	21
In course of erection	...	...	...	...	31
Unfit Dwelling House—6 which owner closed, no order made					
...	
Inspection :—					
1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts)	...				64
2. Number inspected under Housing Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	6
3. Number found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health	...	...	...	...	6
2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice	...	...	...	...	29
3. Action under Statutory Powers :—					
Number in which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	29
Number rendered fit by owner	...			...	29
Proceedings under Housing Act, 1909 :—					
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders—					
Owner agreed. No closing order made	...				6

In a previous Report I went into the question of nuisance caused by the dust given off by the Cement Works and expressed the opinion that the Company would find it to their own interest to stop a waste of valuable material.

I now understand there is a reasonable hope that they have found a scheme which will, they hope, materially lessen the trouble.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.B.,

M.O.H., Irthlingborough Urban District.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1921.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DEAR SIR,

I herewith submit my Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1921.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, the District has been systematically visited for the detention of any nuisance which may exist. **Nuisances.**

Eighty-one nuisances were found to exist, which were abated, the greater part being caused through defective ash-receptacles.

With the exception of five cases it has not been necessary to resort to sending any statutory notice, the work being done either by verbal arrangement or by sending a preliminary letter. On two or three occasions the Council's workmen were directed to do the necessary work, *re* abatement of nuisances.

I append a tabulated statement as required by the Ministry of Health.

Much overcrowding exists, but cannot be remedied owing to the scarcity of houses. It is satisfactory to report that 20 of the New Council Houses are occupied, that the remaining 31 in course of erection are all let, and that an additional twelve houses will shortly be commenced. **Over-crowding.**

Dirty houses caused by dilatory tenants	...	6
Defective drainage	... ..	39
Defective W.C.'s	... ..	21
Defective roofs	... ..	16
Defective Water supplies (wells closed)	...	4
Town water laid on to 17 houses	17
Other causes	7
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Total houses examined	116
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NOTICES ISSUED.

(1) Statutory	5
(2) Preliminary or Letters	95
		<hr/>
		100
		<hr/>

HOUSES EXAMINED FOR

Infectious disease (including tuberculosis and cancer (10 deaths)	12
Encephalitis Lethargica ... (fatal) ...	1
Typhoid fever	1
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet fever	5
	<hr/>
	20
	<hr/>

All cases were regularly visited during the infection, a plentiful supply of soaps and disinfectants etc. being supplied. All dwellings, bedding, etc., were afterwards fumigated and the infected rooms renovated throughout. In some cases houses were renovated all through. In every case of death from tuberculosis the bedding was destroyed and compensation paid.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING SCHEME.

There are 21 of the new houses occupied and 30 in course of erection.

INSPECTION.

Unfit
Dwelling
Houses.

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 64
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 6
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 6

The owner of the above six houses agreed to close them and five of the number are now unoccupied.

Nuisances found to exist in other house property :

NATURE OF DEFECTS.		NO. REMEDIED.	
Defective Roofs ...	6	Roofs repaired ...	6
Damp inside walls ...	12	Remedied ...	12
Dirty and dilapidated ...	22	Renovated ...	22
Defective W.C. cisterns	14	New cisterns ...	14
Other nuisances ...	12	Abated ...	12
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	66		66
	<hr/>		<hr/>

One house that was closed during the year 1920 has been renovated and is again in occupation.

Six houses in which an exchange of tenants occurred were renovated throughout under Section 15 of the Housing Acts.

The collection of house refuse has been done in a satisfactory manner. On an average twenty loads per week are carted away. Six cesspools (where no sewer exists) are also regularly cleaned out by the Council's men. **Scavenging.**

An improved system of drainage has been carried out at the Cement Works Cottages.

This nuisance has been before the Council for many years but during the year 1921 the Company have consulted no less than six firms with a view of abating the nuisance. An engineer has been on the works for several months past and most elaborate plans have been prepared, and on my last visit the scheme had been forwarded to the London office for approval. **Cement Dust.**

It is now understood the work will be commenced immediately.

The drainage from these works continues to flow direct into the back brook and causes an intolerable nuisance. **Hatton Shaw & Co's Works.**

An adjoining Council have now taken the matter in hand as the effluent instead of flowing down the stream flows in the opposite direction and reaches the adjoining district.

For several months the Wellingborough Urban Council deposited the Town's house refuse on land of which they are the owners in the Irthlingborough Parish. This was complained of as causing an intolerable nuisance, and the Wellingborough Council were respectfully requested to discontinue this practice. **Wellingborough Refuse.**

Since the month of November the practice has been stopped and 18 inches of soil has been placed over the refuse, thus abating the nuisance.

122 Galvanized Ash Receptacles with close fitting lids have been provided by owners of property to replace others that were broken and defective.

Factories and Workshops have been regularly visited. Very few workshops are now used there being only about twenty outworkers. With regards to the Lists of Outworkers, these should be forwarded to the Sanitary Inspector as required by Section 107 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 by the manufacturers not later than 1st February and 1st August in each year. **Factories and Workshops**

**Water
Supply.**

No shortage of water was experienced during the year. The certificate states that the analysis indicated a very hard water, wholesome for drinking purposes and domestic use. Considerable lengths of new mains have been laid to enable the water to be laid on to the new Council Houses.

**Dairies and
Cowsheds.**

The milking cows are regularly inspected by Mr. E. W. Parks, M.R.C.V.S., who forwards his report to the Council each quarter. Seventeen cowkeepers are on the register.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughter shops regularly visited and kept in a cleanly condition. No complaints have been received of any meat being sold that was unfit for human consumption.

On several occasions I have been called in by grocers to inspect tinned goods and during the year have caused no less than 77 tins of fruit, tomatoes, corn beef, salmon, etc., to be destroyed. I have experienced no difficulty with the owners, and in every case the goods were voluntarily surrendered.

I am, yours obediently,

GEORGE BAYES.